

# Thomas de Haven Roberts

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		<b>Citizenship</b>	United States

## Research Interests

**Broad:** Formal semantics, pragmatics, syntax-semantics interface

**Narrow:** Attitudes, clausal embedding, questions, speech acts, lexical semantics, discourse particles, Estonian, internet linguistics

## Employment

2021-present      **Postdoctoral Researcher** (*Onderzoeker*), Universiteit van Amsterdam,  
Institute for Logic, Language and Computation, the Netherlands  
Project: ‘Natural Language Interpretation as Abductive Model Generation’  
PI: Professor Reinhard Muskens

## Education

2021              **Ph.D., Linguistics**, University of California, Santa Cruz, USA  
Dissertation: *How to make believe: Inquisitiveness, veridicality, and evidentiality in belief reports*  
Committee: Pranav Anand (chair), Donka Farkas, Jim McCloskey, Floris Roelofsen

2017              **M.A., Linguistics**, University of California, Santa Cruz, USA

2014              **S.B., Linguistics and Philosophy**, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA

## Publications

\* = *equal contribution*

### MANUSCRIPTS

Under revision      Roberts, T. How to build a question-embedder: The case of *can't believe*. Invited submission for Wataru Uegaki & Floris Roelofsen (eds.), *The interface between logic and grammar in the domain of clausal complementation* (Special issue of *Glossa*; invited submission).

- Under revision     Roberts, T. Inquisitive responsive predicates and the logic of contemplation. Under revision for *Journal of Semantics*.
- Under revision     Kroll, M.\* & **T. Roberts**\*. Bare adverbial responses and the typology of polarity ellipsis.
- To appear            Nguyen, A., **T. Roberts**, P. Anand, & J. Fox Tree. Look, Dude: How Hyperpartisan and Nonpartisan Writing Differ in Online Communities. To appear in *Discourse & Society*

#### CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS (PEER-REVIEWED ABSTRACTS)

- 2021                  Roberts, T. Argument saturation and nominal complements. In *Proceedings of North East Linguistics Society* 51.
- 2019                  Roberts, T. I can't believe it's not lexical: Deriving distributed veridicality. In K. Blake, F. Davis, K. Lamp, & J. Rhyne (eds.), *Proceedings of SALT 29*, 665-685.
- 2019                  M. Kroll\* & **T. Roberts**\*. Stating the obvious: *Of course* as a focus-sensitive marker of uncontroversiality. In M.T. Espinal, E. Castroviejo, M. Leonetti, L. McNally, C. Real-Puigdollers (eds.), *Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 23*, 37-53.
- 2018                  Roberts, T. The selectional restrictions of responsive predicates in Estonian. In S. Solt & U. Sauerland (eds.), *Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 22*.
- 2015                  Altshuler, D., V. Hacquard, **T. Roberts**, & A. S. White. On double access, cessation and parentheticality. In S. D'Antonio, C. Little, M. Moroney, & M. Wiegand (eds.), *Proceedings of SALT 25*, 18-37. Ithaca, NY: CLC Publications.
- 2013                  Chang, A., D. Nunez, **T. Roberts**, D. Sengeh, & C. Breazeal. Pre-pilot findings on developing a literacy tablet. In *Proceedings of the 12th International Conference on Interaction Design and Children*, 471-474. New York, NY: ACM.
- 2012                  Chang, A., C. Breazeal, F. Faridi, **T. Roberts**, G. Davenport, H. Lieberman, & N. Montfort. Textual tinkerability: encouraging storytelling behaviors to foster emergent literacy. In *CHI '12 Extended Abstracts on Human Factors in Computing Systems*, 505-520. New York, NY: ACM.

#### OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- 2020                  Roberts, T. The root of it all: Affectedness across lexical categories. In A. Hedding & M. Hoeks (eds.), *Syntax and Semantics at Santa Cruz* 4, 77-96.

## Presentations

\* = *equal contribution*

#### INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- 2021                  Roberts, T. Parenthetically-embedded questions. MECORE workshop on approaches to the semantics of clause-embedding predicates: theories, cross-linguistic data, and experimentation, University of Edinburgh, October 22-24. [online]
- 2020                  **Roberts, T**\* and K. Sasaki\*. What embeds exclamatives and why. Words with Friends, Stanford University, November 13. [online]

- 2019 Kroll, M.\* & **T. Roberts\***. Polarity ellipsis derives bare adverbial responses, and stripping, too. UCSC-Stanford Negation, Polarity, & Ellipsis Workshop, November 2.
- 2018 Roberts, T. I can't believe what's not butter: Deriving distributed factivity. Syntax & Semantics Circle, UC Berkeley, November 5.

#### REFEREED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2021 **Roberts, T.\*** & K. Sasaki\*. Which predicates embed exclamatives and why. Linguistics Society of America Annual Meeting, January 7-10. [online]
- 2021 Roberts, T. Argument saturation and intransitive modification: The double life of embedded clauses. Linguistics Society of America Annual Meeting, January 7-10. [poster; online]
- 2020 Roberts, T. Argument saturation and the syntactic status of embedded clauses. Brussels Conference on Generative Linguistics 13, December 17-18, KU Leuven. [online]
- 2020 Roberts, T. Argument saturation and intransitive modification: The double life of embedded clauses. North East Linguistics Society (NELS) 51, November 6-8, Université du Québec à Montréal. [online]
- 2019 Roberts, T. I can't believe it's not lexical: Deriving distributed factivity. Semantics and Linguistic Theory (SALT) 29, May 15-17, UCLA.
- 2019 Bellik, J. & **T. Roberts**. Verbatim memory for surface features: Evidence from stress shift. CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing, March 29-31, Boulder, Colorado.
- 2019 Kroll, M.\* & **T. Roberts\***. Are bare adverbial responses derived by ellipsis? Definitely. Linguistics Society of America (LSA), January 3-6, New York, New York.
- 2018 Kroll, M.\* & **T. Roberts\***. Stating the obvious: *Of course* as a focus-sensitive marker of uncontroversiality. Sinn und Bedeutung (SuB) 23, September 5-7, University Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain.
- 2018 Roberts, T. Pragmatic Licensing of Polar Questions in Estonian. Chicago Linguistics Society (CLS) 54, April 26-28.
- 2018 Roberts, T. The syntax of statives across categories. Linguistics Society of America (LSA), January 4-8, Salt Lake City, Utah.
- 2017 Roberts, T. Relating form and meaning in negative polar questions. Inquisitiveness Below and Beyond the Sentence Boundary (InqBnB) 2, December 18-19, University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands.
- 2017 Roberts, T. The selectional restrictions of responsive predicates in Estonian. Sinn und Bedeutung (SuB) 22, September 7-10, University of Potsdam/ZAS, Germany.
- 2017 Roberts, T. Responsive Predicates are Question-Embedding: Evidence from Estonian. Chicago Linguistics Society (CLS) 53, May 25-27.
- 2015 Altshuler, D., V. Hacquard, **T. Roberts**, & A. S. White (2015). On double access, cessation and parentheticality. Semantics and Linguistic Theory (SALT) 25, Stanford University, California.

#### OTHER PRESENTATIONS

- 2018 Bellik, J. & **T. Roberts**. Verbatim memory for surface features: Evidence from stress shift. California Annual Meeting on Psycholinguistics (CAMP) 2, University of Southern California, December 1-2.
- 2018 Kroll, M.\* & **T. Roberts\***. I hold these truths to be self-evident: The semantic and pragmatic contributions of *of course*. California Universities Semantics and Pragmatics (CUSP) 11, UC Berkeley, October 28.
- 2018 Roberts, T. Bias in Estonian negative polar questions. Linguistics at Santa Cruz (LASC), UC Santa Cruz, March 10. [Poster]
- 2017 Roberts, T. The semantics of responsive predicates and their complements in Estonian. Linguistics at Santa Cruz (LASC), UC Santa Cruz, March 18.
- 2015 Roberts, T. Thinking about thinking in Estonian. California Universities Semantics and Pragmatics Workshop (CUSP) 8, Stanford University.

## Experience

### RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS

- Jun 2019 - Sep 2019 University of California, Santa Cruz, CA, USA  
*Graduate Research Assistant*  
 Developing neo4j backend for Códice fieldwork software  
 PIs: Pranav Anand, Maziar Toosarvandani
- Mar 2016 - Jun 2016 University of California, Santa Cruz, CA, USA  
*Graduate Research Assistant*  
 NSF Grant *Collaborative Research: RI: Processing Opinion Sharing Dialogue in Social Media*  
 PIs: Jean Fox Tree, Marilyn Walker, Pranav Anand, Steve Whittaker
- Aug 2014 - Aug 2015 University of Maryland, College Park, MD, USA  
*Baggett Fellow*  
 One-year post-baccalaureate research fellowship  
 Advisors: Valentine Hacquard, Philip Resnik
- Jun 2014 - Aug 2014 Utrecht University, Utrecht, the Netherlands  
*MIT-Netherlands Researcher*  
 SemAnTE project for Recognizing Textual Entailment (RTE)  
 Advisor: Yoad Winter
- Jan 2012 - Jan 2013 MIT Media Lab, Cambridge, MA, USA  
*Research Assistant*  
 AIGRE project, a system for automatic interpretation and generation of referring expressions.  
 Supervisor: Dustin Arthur Smith<sup>†</sup>

INSTRUCTOR, UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM:

2021                    **Logic and Conversation** (Fall, with Floris Roelofsen; MSc level)

TEACHING FELLOW (PRIMARY INSTRUCTOR), UCSC:

2021                    **Language OnLine (LOL)** (Summer; online)  
                         **Structure of Uralic Languages** (Spring; online)

2019                    **Semantics 1** (Fall)

TEACHING ASSISTANT, UCSC:

2020                    **Semantics 1** (Fall; online)

Instructor: Jake Vincent

**Syntax 2** (Spring; online)

Instructor: Ivy Sichel

**Semantics 2** (Winter)

Instructor: Jess H.-K. Law

2019                    **Invented Languages** (Spring; online)

Instructor: Pranav Anand

**Semantics 2** (Winter)

Instructor: Donka Farkas

2018                    **Introduction to Linguistics** (Spring)

Instructor: Pranav Anand

**Syntax 1** (Winter)

Instructor: Jim McCloskey

2017                    **Pragmatics** (Fall)

Instructor: Adrian Brasoveanu

**Language, Society, and Culture** (Spring)

Instructor: Jim McCloskey

**Semantics 1** (Winter)

Instructor: Donka Farkas

2016                    **Introduction to Linguistics** (Fall)

Instructor: Adrian Brasoveanu

## Advising

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS:

2022                    Flavia Nährlich (Master of Logic, ILLC)

RESEARCH ASSISTANTS AT UCSC:

2018-2019            Honig Undergraduate Research Assistant Program

Mentees: Madeleine King & Koy Rugama

Project: Memory for prosodic features

## Awards and fellowships

2020	Dissertation Quarter Fellowship, UCSC
2019	Summer Dissertation Fellowship, The Humanities Institute, UCSC
2015-2016	Regents Fellowship, UCSC
2014-2015	Baggett Fellowship, University of Maryland
2014	1st place, S. Klein Prize for Technical Writing, MIT
2010-2014	James R. Hoffa Memorial Scholarship

## Service

### JOURNAL REVIEWING

Glossa, Philosophical Quarterly

### ABSTRACT REVIEWING

European Summer School on Language, Logic, and Information (ESSLLI) (2021)

### SERVICE TO THE FIELD

2019-	Committee on LGBTQ+ Issues in Linguistics (COZIL), Linguistics Society of America
2015-	Organizing & Program Committees, North American Computational Linguistics Open Competition (NACLO)
2014-2015	NACLO site host, University of Maryland

### SERVICE TO THE DEPARTMENT, UC SANTA CRUZ

2019	Coordinator, Graduate Student open house, UCSC
2018-2019	Coordinator, Semantics, Pragmatics, and Language Philosophy (SPLAP) reading group
2017-2018	Events Committee Chair, UCSC Linguistics
2016-2017	Computer Czar & Editor of the WHASC newsletter, UCSC Linguistics

## Computer skills

Languages	Python, R, PHP, JavaScript, HTML/CSS, Bash
Packages	node.js, NLTK, Stanford Dependency Parser, Twitter API
Programs	Praat, Audacity, IbexFarm, OpenSesame

## Languages

Native	English
Advanced	French
Intermediate	Dutch, Estonian, Japanese